

11 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of Special Group Meeting, 11 January 1962

PRESENT: General Taylor; Mr. Johnson; Mr. Gilpatrick, General
Lamitzer (Items 2-5); Mr. McCone (Items 1-3) and
Mr. Bissell

The Attorney General (Item 1 and part of 2)
Mr. Richard Helms (Item 1)
General E. G. Lansdale (Item 1)

1. Progress Report on Cuba

General Lansdale summarized progress to date, identifying four major broad programs. He emphasized that the current bottleneck is the procurement of suitable Cubans to accomplish the initial task of infiltration. He also touched on other activities which are being undertaken while this problem is being solved, including such

Several members of the Group noted the difficulty of the task ahead, with Mr. McCone calling attention to the fact that the prevailing spirit within Cuba appears to be one of apathy rather than resistance, and that a fanatical pro-Castro minority exists along with an efficient police mechanism.

It was noted that the prevailing policy on sabotage is still in effect, i.e., that no actions which would be dangerous to the population will be undertaken, nor will major demolitions be done at this stage. It was agreed that whenever this policy appears to require change, the matter will be discussed with the Special Group.

It was noted that CIA is proceeding to set up an interrogation center for Cuban refugees in the Miami area and that this will be carefully examined to insure that it will be adequately staffed to produce the optimum amount of intelligence on conditions inside Cuba.

The Group agreed that maritime capabilities for infiltration should be clearly sufficient for any foreseeable tasks of this nature. The need for isolated and uncontaminated real estate was also brought out.

NSC review(s) completed.

- 2 -

General Lansdale was asked to produce for next week's meeting a consolidated summary of progress to date and an overall plan showing departmental tasks and responsibilities, along with timing of implementation. This plan would then be shown to higher authority.

2. Organizing to Direct Counter-Insurgency

The Group concurred in the third draft of the National Security Action Memorandum designed to establish a Special Group (Counter-Insurgency). It was noted that this draft does not provide for a committee staff as recommended by the Joint Staff, but General Lemnitzer deferred to the majority at this stage. Mr. Johnson stated that his concurrence was contingent on talking to Mr. Fowler Hamilton, who has not as yet been consulted.

Mr. Kennedy argued for the designation of the Secretary of Labor and the Director, United States Information Agency, as permanent members of the new Group. After some discussion, the consensus appeared to be that these two individuals should be invited to attend in those cases where it was clear that the labor or information aspects are important. It was agreed in any case that both should be asked to attend an early meeting so that this concept could be discussed with them.

The Group agreed that South Vietnam, Thailand and Laos should come under the cognizance of the Special Group (CI) and that the question of whether Colombia should be included would be deferred until the report of the Internal Security Task Force for Latin America has been completed. The Chairman undertook to inform higher authority of these decisions.

It was noted that, as a first step toward bringing the Southeast Asia countries into this forum, Mr. Harriman should be asked to bring the Group up to date on the status of operations there.

It was also agreed that in due course the Special Group (CI) should consider the Internal Security Report mentioned above; the inventory of paramilitary assets being prepared in response to NSAM 56; and the report on Military Actions for Latin America (NSAM 118).

It was agreed that the most efficient method of procedure would be to take up Special Group (CI) matters at the beginning of meetings and then to go into the agenda appropriate for the 5412

- 3 -

Special Group. In view of the additional time that this will require, it was agreed that the meetings should be scheduled for Thursdays at 2:00 rather than 2:30.

1. Resolution on Satellites

This subject was briefly discussed but was put over until next week to permit further discussions within State and with Ambassador Stevenson.

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5. Less - [redacted] Covert Operations

This paper was approved as presented, i.e., as a contingency plan.

Thomas A. Parrott

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